

ten. During his long tenure at UNC, he has taught many National Collegiate Athletic Association, Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women and U.S. Swimming national champion swimmers. Several of his swimmers were chosen to represent the United States in the Olympics as well. Because of these accomplishments, Frank Comfort's stature as a coach has solidified in the amateur and international ranks. Among his many additional coaching positions, he served on the coaching staff at the U.S. Olympic Festival on six occasions and as the head coach of the U.S. Women's Team which competed in the Goodwill Games in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1994.

It comes as no surprise that Frank Comfort's name has been on the U.S. Swimming International Coaches List consistently since 1976, an honor going only to the most elite coaches in the United States. He was named the youngest recipient ever of the Master Coach Award from the College Swimming Coaches Association and was inducted into the Johns Hopkins Athletic Hall of Fame.

Frank Comfort is a living testament to the positive role that collegiate athletics plays in our national experience. His guidance has empowered both teams and individuals to fulfill their promise and to extend their purpose and passion, to step out of their comfort zone and excel. Athletic achievement is not an endeavor that runs itself. It requires the constant leadership, foresight, encouragement, and discipline that can be afforded only by dedicated coaches. Coaches are one of the best examples of what is great about our country. They inspire students and athletes to become better people; to give their best in every endeavor and to make the most of their God-given abilities. Frank Comfort's leadership is about cultivating the promise of the human spirit and encouraging those who work daily to make that promise a reality.

Frank Comfort's career will soon come to a close. After almost 40 years as a coach and educator, he has left an indelible mark on college athletics and on countless students whom he has coached, mentored, advised, and inspired. Please join me in commending Frank Comfort, distinguished coach and educator, and an exemplar of strong character and leadership.

WOUNDED WARRIOR ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act, H.R. 1538.

This legislation will enhance the way the Department of Defense provides medical care for wounded warriors. Furthermore, the legislation will improve the transition of soldiers from the Department of Defense health care system to the Department of Veterans Affairs. An evaluation of care that our wounded men and women are receiving is requested in the legislation. I strongly support these provisions.

The Wounded Warriors Assistance Act will help address and eliminate the red tape that veterans and soldiers get tangled in.

My home district in Albuquerque is home to one of the premier VA hospitals in the country. They provide excellent care and support to our veterans. This legislation will improve the transition that New Mexico Service Members may face when leaving the Department of Defense medical system and returning to New Mexico to receive care at Albuquerque VA hospital. Specifically, the improvements will include a written transition plan specifying the schedule of milestones for transition of the member from the military service before the date of separation or retirement and set up a formal process for transmittal of records and other information to the Department of Veterans Affairs on or before the date of separation or retirement during a formal meeting. Furthermore, the legislation would require the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a single medical information system, which will be a significant improvement for our service members.

I look forward to the findings of the many reports requested in the legislation. It will allow us as a body to evaluate these findings and implement improvements and initiatives that will continue to support our brave men and women. I am grateful to all who serve their nation and we as a Congress have a responsibility to ensure they receive the best possible care. In this war on terrorism, the greatest burdens have fallen on the shoulders of a relatively small number of Americans who have volunteered to take great risks on our behalf. Events over the last few years have made a new generation of Americans realize just how precious our freedoms really are. We owe our freedom fighters—past, present, and future—a debt of gratitude for their selflessness and sacrifice. I will continue to fight to ensure that our veterans get the benefits they were promised, the health care they deserve, and the recognition that our nation owes them.

HONORING CESAR CHAVEZ

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, this Saturday, March 31, marks the 80th birthday of Cesar Chavez. I am honored to rise before you today to pay tribute to Mr. Chavez's dedicated advocacy for workers.

As a young child, Cesar Chavez experienced the long hours, horrible wages and other deplorable conditions and discrimination faced by migrant farm workers, which emboldened him to fight for justice and fairness for all working people of this country.

In 1962, Mr. Chavez founded the National Farm Workers Association (now known as the United Farm Workers of America), through which he organized migrant workers in campaigns for safe and fair working conditions, reasonable wages, decent housing, and the elimination of child labor.

His tireless leadership and use of nonviolent tactics, such as fasts, boycotts, strikes and pilgrimages, brought awareness to the conditions of farm workers and their struggle for better pay and safer working conditions.

Mr. Chavez is credited for the passage of the groundbreaking 1975 California Agriculture Labor Relations Act, which remains the only

law in the Nation that protects farm and migrant workers' rights to unionize.

Madam Speaker, I came out of the labor movement as a lining cutter at Seaford Clothing factory in Rock Island, IL. I owe Cesar Chavez a great deal of gratitude for his diligent efforts to achieve dignity, respect, fair wages, medical coverage, pension benefits, and humane living conditions for all workers, which laid the ground work for the additional labor protections I was able to fight for while President of UNITE Here local 617. Mr. Chavez has and always will be an inspiration to me, as well as a reminder of what can be achieved by the will and conviction of one person.

I am happy to see that several states have acknowledged the contributions of Cesar Chavez by dedicating a state holiday in his honor, including my home state of Illinois. For four consecutive Congresses, Congressman JOE BACA has led a movement to recognize the contributions of Cesar Chavez with a national holiday. I am honored to join the distinguished gentlemen from California and 51 of my colleagues as a cosponsor of H. Res. 76, the Cesar Chavez Holiday Act.

Not only does this legislation recognize the contributions Cesar Chavez made to the labor movement but it also aims to educate students on the life and work of this courageous man.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to honor Cesar Chavez by supporting the Cesar Chavez Holiday Act.

WOUNDED WARRIOR ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, due to a technical glitch, my vote on rollcall No. 204 was not recorded. Had my vote been recorded, I would have voted "yea."

REINTRODUCTION OF THE PLEA ACT

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to reintroduce the PLEA Act to protect our citizens and to protect our law enforcement officers.

The PLEA Act would ban the Five Seven handgun, a weapon that has been designed by FN Herstal of Belgium to have the power necessary to pierce a bulletproof vest while still being small enough to conceal. In other words, it is the perfect weapon for criminals to use against police officers.

It is not useful as a hunting weapon and there are certainly other reasonable options for self-defense. So why do we need such a dangerous gun on our streets? The answer is that we do not.

Some in the gun lobby have said the claims about the gun's power have been exaggerated. But I have seen a demonstration of the